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Cuba

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I. Methodology and consultation process

1. The present report covers the period beginning after the submission of the second report of Cuba to the universal periodic review (UPR) and focuses on the recommendations accepted by the country in the second review cycle.

2. For its preparation, a national working group was set up, comprised of several ministries and public institutions, which facilitated follow-up to the recommendations from the previous UPR, systematized the relevant information and statistics, and led consultations among a broad range of stakeholders, including civil society organizations.

II. Legal and institutional framework for the promotion and protection of human rights

3. During the period covered, the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States against Cuba continued, and its extraterritorial application was reinforced, especially in the financial sector. This policy is the main obstacle to the development of Cuba and constitutes a flagrant violation of the human rights of its people. In this difficult context, the country has continued to make progress in the process of updating its model of economic and social development.

4. In June 2017, the National Assembly of the People's Power adopted a document entitled *Conceptualización del Modelo Económico y Social Cubano de Desarrollo Socialista* (Conceptualization of the Cuban Economic and Social Model of Socialist Development) and another one entitled *Bases del Plan Nacional de Desarrollo Económico y Social hasta 2030* (Bases for the National Economic and Social Development Plan up to 2030), both of which contribute to the strengthening of the country's institutions.[1]

5. Cuba remains committed to international human rights law. It has ratified 44 of all 61 international human rights treaties (or 72.13 per cent), placing it among the States members of the United Nations with the highest number of ratifications of such instruments.

6. On 28 September 2015, Cuba deposited the instrument of ratification for International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention No. 182 concerning the worst forms of child labour, thus becoming one of the States members of ILO that have ratified all eight fundamental conventions.

7. On 20 June 2013, Cuba acceded to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

8. The country continues to strengthen and refine its institutional framework and its legal system, with amendments and proposals that meet the needs of Cuban society and the relevant international standards. As part of the process of modernizing the Cuban model of economic and social development, a considerable number of laws and regulations have been revised, updated and amended, while others are under review.

9. In this connection, the new Labour Code, Act No. 116 of 2013, entered into force on 17 June 2014, as well as the regulations thereto. In the drafting of and consultations on the bill, account was taken of the need for ongoing improvement of the economic model and the recommendations of the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations of ILO.

10. The new Labour Code strengthens legal protection of the principle of equality and non-discrimination in the workplace and reaffirms Cuba's commitment to freedom of association and collective bargaining. The Code confirms recognition of the right of workers to voluntarily organize and form trade unions, regardless of the terms of their employment, in accordance with the principle of unity advocated historically by Cuban workers.

11. In the area of employment, numerous provisions have entered into force linked to new forms of property management and work organization, as a result of the extension of self-employment and cooperative partnership. These standards are aimed, among other things, at expanding guarantees and protection for workers employed in non-State forms of management, including in joint ventures and foreign capital.

12. On 8 December 2016, Decree-Law No. 339, on maternity leave for working women, and Decree-Law No. 340, amending special Social Security schemes for maternity protection, were enacted.

13. Decree-Law No. 339 expands and creates new rights for parents, for families as a whole, for maternity protection and childcare, promotes increased involvement of families in childcare and encourages women to remain in or re-enter the workforce. Decree-Law No. 340 establishes regulations for female workers on maternity leave or on leave for sickness or accident and on the duration of leave for purposes of entitlement to financial benefits. It also exempts such women from the obligation to contribute to the social security system.[2]

14. In November 2014, the Office of the Attorney General started providing alternative types of services to citizens with the aim of expanding mechanisms for channelling the concerns and/or complaints of the public. These channels offer advice to citizens on issues related to protection of their human rights, thus ensuring increased access to the institution, especially for older persons, persons with disabilities, detainees and persons who are deprived of their liberty, or anyone who for any other reason finds it difficult to go to the offices of the Attorney General around the country.[3]

III. Achievements and challenges in the promotion and protection of human rights in Cuba since the previous review

A. Civil and political rights

Right to life

15. Protecting the right to life of all Cubans remains a top priority.

16. The criminal legislation establishes severe sanctions for behaviour that is threatening to a person's life and physical integrity. Criminal liability is aggravated when such acts are the result of an abuse of power or authority, take advantage of the victim's helplessness or are committed by a public official or agent.

17. The State has taken the steps necessary to prevent the commission of acts that are forbidden under the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, given that such actions constitute an assault against human dignity and a violation of national and international norms.

18. The immediate remedy of habeas corpus is available for challenging the legality of instances of deprivation of liberty and detention without the formalities and guarantees established by the Constitution and the law. Between 2010 and June 2017, the courts processed 156 cases of habeas corpus. In eight of those cases, the appeal for habeas corpus was admitted, and the immediate release of the detainee in question was ordered.

19. This period saw the consolidation of the work of judges responsible for monitoring, influencing and providing services for persons serving sentences under non-custodial measures, who in coordination with the People's Supreme Court, implement social and State efforts to ensure that such persons are reintegrated into society and the workforce, in accordance with the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures (The Tokyo Rules).

20. The use of weapons is subject to more stringent controls by the competent authorities, as their use is limited to activities pertaining to the defence of the country and of domestic order. There is no sale or trafficking of firearms nor is there easy access to them.

21. Violence between persons is combated in all its forms. The most serious forms of violence, including domestic violence, are punished by law. In 2016, the Office of the Attorney General and the Cuban Women's Federation signed a cooperation agreement providing for the use of an alternative channel (a telephone hotline) for reporting acts of violence against women. In addition, sustained efforts have been made to promote a culture of non-violence throughout the population. Incidents of citizen insecurity are few, and homicide rates remain very low.

22. The death penalty has not been imposed in any case since the last report, and at present, no one in Cuba is under a death sentence.

23. Protecting the lives of persons deprived of their liberty is a high priority for the Cuban Government. All prisons have health facilities, medical and nursing personnel and sufficient resources and materials to guarantee the right to free medical care. When an illness cannot be treated within the prison system, the inmate in question receives care in the national hospital system, without discrimination.

24. Medical treatment must be provided to any inmate or detainee who claims he or she is sick, as well as to anyone who appears to need treatment even if he or she does not request it.

25. Strict controls are in place to prevent persons deprived of their liberty from harming themselves. Regulations are followed in order to prevent deaths in detention centres and prisons.

26. Not only does Cuba protect the lives of its own citizens, it has also helped to improve the living conditions and health of other peoples and nations through international cooperation projects and assistance.

27. In disaster situations, the Civil Defence System protects the life and health of the entire population. This principle is followed without regard to the cost in resources and effort. As demonstrated in the case of the powerful hurricanes Matthew and Irma, levels of mortality from disasters are very low.

Right to take part in the conduct of public affairs. Right to freedom of opinion and expression and freedom of association and peaceful assembly

28. Since the previous report, Cuba has continued promoting opportunities for the people to exercise all their individual freedoms and political rights, in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and the law. This is an ongoing effort that is not limited to election cycles, as it covers all the different stages in the conduct of public affairs.

29. In Cuba, there is a wide-ranging debate on a wide variety of issues pertaining to the political, economic, social and cultural life of the nation and the world at large. Television, radio and other mass media facilitate access to truthful and timely information and enable the public to participate in the discussion of national and international affairs.

30. In recent years, the use of the feedback mechanisms offered by different digital media platforms has grown, and this has increased the options available to the public to express and discuss their opinions on many different issues.

31. Efforts to increase the effectiveness of control by the people of the activities of State bodies, elected representatives and civil servants were continued.

32. Systematic contacts between deputies and their constituents have been strengthened, and management of the bodies that make up the People's National Assembly has been improved. Civic responsibility has been enhanced as the people are constantly encouraged to participate directly in the design and implementation of policies and programmes that address the problems identified and in effectively monitoring governmental activity.

33. In 2015, by-elections were held which resulted in the election of 12,589 delegates to the municipal assemblies of the People's Power. The right to vote was exercised voluntarily by 7.563 million voters, or 88.3 per cent of the citizens qualified to vote; over 92 per cent of the ballots were valid.

34. In June 2017, the Council of State, acting in accordance with the Constitution and the Elections Act (Act No. 72 of 1992), convened general elections for delegates to the municipal assemblies for two-and-a-half-year terms, and for delegates to provincial assemblies and deputies to the National Assembly of the People's Power for five-year terms.

35. The first round in elections for delegates to municipal assemblies was held on 26 November 2017, and 11,415 delegates were elected. A total of 7,610,183 votes were cast, representing 89.02 per cent of qualified citizens, surpassing the turnout for the by-election of 2015. In this round, 91.79 per cent of the ballots were valid.

36. On 3 December, as provided for in the Elections Act, a second round was held in 1,103 districts of 153 municipalities. Of the total number of voters on the updated lists in 3,225 polling stations involved (1,306,769), 977,483 citizens representing 74.8 per cent of the electorate exercised the right to vote. With 93.49 per cent of the ballots found to be valid, 1,101 delegates were elected, making it necessary for two districts to hold a third round to elect their representatives.

37. Young people were actively involved in decision-making.[4] Young people under 35, including students and young workers from different sectors of society, accounted for 8.5 per cent of the membership of the Cuban Parliament (52). Approximately 678 delegates from districts and members of territorial structures of government are young. In the 2015 municipal elections, 15 per cent of the 12,589 elected delegates (councillors) are young people between the ages of 16 and 30. The parliamentary hearings held among students in the lower secondary level, pre-university level, polytechnic institutes and universities led to a fruitful exchange between members of Parliament and youth on such topics as the Cuban political system and the elections.

38. Discussions on the documents *Conceptualizacion del Modelo Económico y Social Cubano de Desarrollo Socialista* and *Bases para el Plan Nacional de Desarrollo Económico y Social hasta 2030* involved more than 1.6 million citizens, including more than 500 young people, at 47,470 meetings which generated 208,161 proposals, which in turn led to changes being made in a substantial part of the original texts of those documents.

39. The consultations held prior to adoption of the new Labour Code involved 2,802,459 workers in 69,056 assemblies. Ninety per cent of the 171,680 proposals made during this process were included in the Code.

40. Cuba has continued to ensure that civil society organizations have broad powers and proactive capacity, as well as ability to consult, offer opinions and make decisions in the exercise of the participatory democracy enshrined in the Constitution.

41. With the ability to initiate legislation, some Cuban civil society organizations promote laws in favour of human rights for part or all of the population; the proposals are assessed and discussed for approval by the National Assembly of the People's Power. For example, the Cuban Women's Federation proposed and promoted amendments to the Act on Maternity Leave for Working Women in order to facilitate equal treatment for women and men as they exercise their right to participate in caring for their newborn children, with the guarantee of paid leave and job security. Similarly, the Confederation of Cuban Workers actively participated, along with other civil society organizations, in the preparation and discussion of the proposal for the Labour Code that is now in force.

42. Cuba continued to guarantee the enjoyment of the right to organize trade unions and to collective bargaining, as a form of participation in Cuban society. With the entry into force of the new Labour Code, the right of workers to organize voluntarily and to form trade unions, including in the non-State sector, was recognized and protected.

43. There are 16 national unions which are organized by branches or sectors. Of the total active workforce, 3,270,195 workers belong to unions. Of these, 2,818,523 work in the public sector, and 287,481 in the non-State sector.

44. Trade unions participate in the development, implementation and monitoring of development plans and the State budget. Their representatives participate at every stage in

the development of legislation in the field of labour and social security, on many occasions, bills are referred for consultation to workers assemblies in the workplace.

Access to information through information and communication technologies (ICT)

45. The development of information and communication technologies (ICT) has grown across the board, as has access to those technologies.

46. Telephone services increased by around two million lines between 2014 and 2016. They have continued to expand in rural areas, including mountainous and hard-to-reach areas. Mobile cellular service increased by over 600,000 lines with respect to 2015 and now covers over 85 per cent of the population.

47. To expand public access to the Internet, 630 facilities for collective navigation were opened, as well as over 400 public areas for Wi-Fi. This means that 100 per cent of the public have Internet access in municipalities throughout the country. There are currently 4.529 million users of Internet services. Residential Internet service was introduced gradually.

48. The generation of capacity for digital payments through telephone banking, remote banking, mobile banking and ATMs was increased.

49. Major challenges remain owing to the high cost of technologies and the United States embargo, which, among other things, affects Cuba's access to the Internet.

Protection of the right to equality and non-discrimination

50. Cuba constantly fights against all forms of discrimination through laws, policies and programmes. The Constitution recognizes the equality of all citizens and prohibits discrimination. The Criminal Code penalizes all kinds of discrimination.

51. Efforts to counteract all vestiges of racial discrimination have continued. For example, greater appreciation of the African heritage of the population is promoted in the programmes and curricula of all the educational systems and in the mass media; greater emphasis is placed on instilling anti-racist values; opportunities are provided for discussion of and reflection on issues related to racial discrimination; working strategies based in community mobilization have been consolidated, and public policies and programmes have been implemented to help reduce the potential for differences among population groups.

52. The José Antonio Aponte Commission was set up within the organizational structure of the National Union of Writers and Artists of Cuba to combat racism and discrimination. The Aponte Commission promotes activities such as historical information campaigns, discussions on the struggle against racism and discrimination and raising awareness of such issues among broad sectors of society.

53. Significant progress was made in compiling statistics on the subject with the publication of the study entitled *El Color de la Piel según el Censo de Población y Viviendas del 2012* (Skin Colour according to the Population and Housing Census of 2012). These data were compiled by the National Office of Statistics and Information and its Centre for Population and Development Studies. It included updated information on skin colour among the population and gave continuity to prior research studies and analysis on the issue.

54. The first workshop on combating racial discrimination, promoted by the Cuban chapter of the Articulación Regional de Afrodescendientes de Latinoamérica y el Caribe (Regional Network of People of African Descent in Latin America and the Caribbean), was held in November 2014.

55. Sustained progress has been made in the fight against discrimination based on sexual orientation. The document on conceptualization of the Cuban economic and social model of socialist development envisages addressing all forms of discrimination, including on the basis of gender identity and sexual orientation, as one of the principles underlying the model. Similarly, the new Labour Code includes non-discrimination based on sexual orientation among the fundamental principles governing the right to work. Equality is a principle in the Cuban legal system that is enshrined in the Constitution.

56. The National Sexual Health and Education Programme, which is coordinated by the National Sex Education Centre of the Ministry of Public Health, has made it possible to develop an ongoing educational strategy to promote respect for freedom of sexual orientation and gender identity.

57. The actions planned include educational strategies, promotion of academic work and scientific research, legal orientation services, sex therapy, care for LGBTI persons and victims of gender violence and child sexual abuse, development of community programmes and production of publications and audiovisual materials, as well as coordination of social networks, online discussions, campaigns to promote respect for freedom of sexual orientation.

58. One of the areas in which the greatest impact was made at the national and international levels was a 10-day series of workshops on combating homophobia and transphobia that was organized in the context of International Day against Homophobia and Transphobia. This event, which is held every year in Havana and in one provincial venue, includes critical actions aimed at promoting the right to sexual orientation and gender identity and providing opportunities for political and social activism, as well as for raising awareness and educating the public on these issues. The National Commission for Comprehensive Services to Transsexual Persons, which was established by the Ministry of Public Health, has done a commendable job in providing health services for these persons.

59. Cuba has made undeniable progress in promoting gender equality, making it a regional leader in Latin America and the Caribbean.

60. Hundreds of lawyers have taken postgraduate courses on gender and the law, violence, sexuality and masculinity; a diplomate course on mediation, gender and the family has been offered; communication products have been developed for lawyers and to improve the public's understanding of legal issues; and several universities have introduced an optional undergraduate course on gender and the law. The Law School of the University of Havana added a gender curriculum in 2015.

61. The International Conference on Women, Gender and the Law, organized by the National Union of Jurists of Cuba, is held every other year. The highly successful sixth conference was held in May 2016. On that occasion, the Resident Coordinator of the United Nations System in Cuba awarded the UNETE prize for commitment to equality and combating gender-based violence to the Project on Gender and the Law: Justice in the Key of Gender, guaranteeing equality between women and men.

62. Hundreds of journalists, screenwriters, artists and media managers have received training on gender equality in courses taught by experts of the Cuban Women's Federation.

63. The country's universities have a network of professorships on women and gender equality. The network is coordinated by the Cuban Women's Federation, which has a centre for women's studies and is a national leader on these issues.

64. Cuba joined the campaign led by former United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon to end violence against women.

Women's rights

65. Cuba has also achieved other successes in promoting and protecting women's rights. The State legal mechanism for promoting equality between women and men has gradually been improved and it has actively participated, with full equality, in all spheres of economic, political and social development.

66. Women enjoy full rights, on an equal footing with men, in regard to jobs and social security, in accordance with the legislation in force. Women receive equal pay for work of equal value; they have the right to own land and receive bank loans. They have access to free education and quality health services, as well as sexual and reproductive rights.

67. Policies and programmes have been introduced to promote women's autonomy and their economic, social and political empowerment. They have the right to free and responsible choice regarding fertility and abortion; the procedure is performed by highly qualified medical personnel in health institutions, always with the woman's consent. Family

planning services are available through primary health care and specialized gynaecological services for adolescents.

68. Women account for 60.5 per cent of graduates of higher education. They account for 67.2 per cent of technicians and professionals nationwide. They make up 49 per cent of the workforce in the civil service; more than 80 per cent of female workers have an intermediate and higher level of education. Women account for 48.6 per cent of leaders; 81.9 per cent of professors, teachers and scientists; 80 per cent of presidents of provincial courts, prosecutors, judges and professionals and of the workforce in the health and education sectors. Women represent 53.5 per cent of persons working in science, innovation and technology and over 64.2 per cent of cooperation personnel in countries around the world.

69. According to the Inter-Parliamentary Union, women hold 48.86 per cent of seats in Parliament; Cuba is in fourth place worldwide and second place in the Western Hemisphere in terms of female representatives. Ten of the 15 provinces of Cuba have a female head of Government. At present, 14 women are members of the State Council, representing 45.16 per cent of its membership. Two of the five Vice-Presidents of the Council of State are women.

Rights of the child

70. Cuba has made significant progress in the care and development of children and adolescents; its programmes are recognized internationally, including by United Nations agencies, funds and programmes in the social sector. In 2014, the report entitled *Invertir para Transformar: La Juventud como protagonista del desarrollo*, published by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), ranked Cuba at the top in Ibero-America in terms of investment in young people.[5]

71. As a State party to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Cuba has developed national plans, policies and programmes targeting this group which incorporate the provisions of the Convention. These plans cover the areas of health, education, disability care, sports, culture, social prevention, promotion and protection of rights, among others. The work is carried out with a comprehensive, cross-cutting approach.[6]

72. Cuba is implementing the National Plan of Action for Children, Adolescents and the Family 2015–2020, which outlines actions carried out by all the institutions involved with these segments of the population and with families. The Plan is based on three fundamental principles: the best interests of the child, equal opportunities and participation as subjects of rights. These principles are applied in matters concerning children within the family and in society, in accordance with their age and stage of development.

73. A policy that has had high impact on care for children and adolescents has been the strengthening of the network of homes for children without family protection; 47 centres provide care for 447 children and adolescents.

74. In the area of family law, the practice of listening to children and adolescents in all proceedings that involve them was adopted, bearing in mind the concept of the progressive ability of children established by the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Family sections were created in the municipal courts which enable them to more effectively address conflicts in this area.

75. During the period of this report, radio, television, cinema and other mass media were used to disseminate information on the rights of children. The Cuban radio system broadcasts 133 programmes for children, and children are actively involved in 50 per cent of the programmes. Of the 96 stations, 32 per cent have set up circles of interest for children.

76. The project on disseminating the rights of children and adolescents, which is carried out by the Ministry of Justice with the support of UNICEF, has included important awareness-raising and training activities for teachers, parents and children, as well as educational campaigns in the mass media.

77. The social communication strategy for Cuban adolescents and young people, which addresses the main concerns of these groups in regard to learning and leisure, was adopted in January 2015.

Rights of older persons[7]

78. As part of Government efforts to achieve a more inclusive and just society for older persons, a number of social services and assistance programmes have been developed; in particular, improvements have been made to increase the availability of medications and monitor the health of older persons.[8] They receive direct personalized care, bearing in mind their economic, social, health and family situation, and when necessary, social services provide economic assistance or other services.

79. Care for the elderly is provided through three subprogrammes, i.e., at the institutional, hospital and community levels, especially the latter. This includes regular health examinations at the family doctor's office; Círculos de Abuelos (social gatherings for the elderly);[9] the Casas del Abuelo (day centres);[10] Escuelas de Cuidadores (training for caregivers), soup kitchens for families and university courses for older persons. Projects are carried out in conjunction with the World Food Programme (WFP) to provide support to this population group through its contribution to food security and nutrition, in particular through the strengthening of links between social protection systems and agricultural value chains.

80. The offices of the Ministry of Labour in the municipalities are staffed with social workers whose duties include identifying the characteristics of households and detecting social problems that arise in the communities they serve. The elderly are one of the groups that receive priority attention. The social services provide assistance to households that include older adults, with the aim of improving their quality of life while enabling them to stay in their usual environment. Among other things, at-home care is provided to older persons and persons with severe disabilities who live alone and are dependent on others for their daily activities. Social workers are hired by the municipal offices of the Ministry of Labour to prepare meals and accompany these persons when they need to carry out activities outside of their home. Social services such as family care, at-home social assistance, payment for care in day centres and homes for the elderly enable older persons to develop their potential as fundamental actors in society.

81. To address the rapid ageing of the population, efforts have also been made to repair and maintain day centres and homes for the elderly. There are now 148 nursing homes, with 11,771 beds. The number of day centres has increased to a total of 276, with capacity for 9,338 people. In addition, 37 per cent of older persons are served by 13,945 Círculos de Abuelos.

82. The number of geriatric hospitals has increased to 50 nationwide. There are 305 doctors specializing in geriatrics and gerontology, and 132 are in training.

83. Cuba has included the issue of population dynamics, including ageing, in its country programme with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and WFP.

Rights of persons with disabilities

84. In its effort to build a society in which all citizens have the same opportunities, the State devotes special attention to persons with disabilities. The policy prioritizes actions designed to achieve the full and effective participation of persons with disabilities in their social environment. To that end, it is implementing the National Plan of Action for Persons with Disabilities, which is aimed at promoting, coordinating and implementing policies, strategies, programmes and services that will ensure that they have a better quality of life and equal opportunities, integration and active participation in economic and social development.

85. In 2015, the Cuban Government allocated 349 million pesos for social assistance programmes, thus ensuring financial protection for 175,106 people. These programmes will benefit 38,690 persons with disabilities, 3,931 mothers of children with severe disabilities and 5,166 recipients of at-home social assistance who will receive care during the day.

86. Persons with disabilities enjoy the benefits of the free, universal and comprehensive National Health System. Specialized centres and highly qualified staff are available to meet their special needs. There are 30 psychopedagogy medical centres for persons with intellectual disabilities and 420 rehabilitation wards in primary health-care centres for persons with motor and physical disabilities. Creative and art appreciation workshops organized by associations of persons with disabilities benefited 25,000 persons.

87. Children with disabilities participate in all activities organized for children and adolescents and benefit from the same general protection to ensure their full development. They have unrestricted access to the free universal national education system, including special education for persons with some type of intellectual disability who need specialized care. The Ministry of Education is working to improve teacher training with a view to improving the quality of services for children with special educational needs. They are guaranteed access to assistive devices to facilitate their participation in society, including individual devices such as cochlear implants and prostheses, optical aids, hearing aids, mobility aids and others.

88. Paralympic sports facilities have been improved with local and national structures, enabling Cuban athletes to place eighteenth in the Paralympic Games held in 2016.

89. A special effort has been made to provide access to information and communication technologies for persons with disabilities. Youth computer and electronics clubs carry out programmes for children with different types of disabilities, focusing on the creation of educational software and games.

B. Economic, social and cultural rights

Right to health

90. Cuba has continued to consolidate the quality of its health-care system, which provides universal coverage and free assistance. It is the country with the best ratio of doctors per inhabitants, according to the World Health Organization. Life expectancy at birth was 78.4 years in 2015. The mortality rate for children under 1 stands at 4.3 per 1,000 live births. The health system gives priority to following up on maternal and child health. In 2016, the mortality rate for children under 5 was reduced to 5.5 per 1,000 live births. That age group has a survival rate of 99.4, and 99.9 per cent of deliveries take place in health institutions.

91. Cuba has 493,368 health workers. There are 80.2 doctors per 10,000 inhabitants, 15 specialists in oral medicine and 79.3 nurses.

92. At the community level, 12,883 doctors are on staff at 10,782 doctor-and-nurse centres. Comprehensive medical care is provided to 100 per cent of the population.[11]

93. Research has continued on vaccines for cholera, dengue and HIV, among others. In addition, research into and production of technologies and generic medicines has been expanded, and priority continues to be given to high-impact programmes, in areas such as cardiology, oncology, nephrology, ophthalmology and organ transplants.

94. Cuban children are vaccinated against 13 diseases. The immunization programme is among those with the highest coverage in the world, and a large percentage of vaccines are produced within the country. Fourteen infectious diseases have been eradicated, and another nine do not pose a health problem, as infection rates are lower than 0.1 per 100,000 inhabitants, and five diseases have very low incidence rates.[12]

95. Programmes for dealing with epidemics have also been improved, giving priority to care for mothers and children, chronic childhood diseases, children with disabilities and victims of natural disasters.

96. The national programme on STI/HIV/AIDS has been strengthened, with noteworthy results. More than two million HIV tests have been conducted every year; the impact has been positive, the number of people who know their diagnosis has increased. The

prevalence of HIV/AIDS among the population aged 15 to 49 years is 0.27 per cent, and antiretroviral treatment is guaranteed for anyone who needs it.

97. In 2015, Cuba became the first country in the world to be certified by the World Health Organization as having eliminated mother-to-child transmission of HIV and syphilis.

98. Government efforts are geared toward continuing to guarantee full access to health services, raising indicators and ensuring that the health system is efficient and sustainable so as to continue developing it as an expression of human dignity and equity. The budget for public health and social assistance is 10,369,400,000 pesos, which represents 20.3 per cent of total current expenditure and 12 per cent of the gross domestic product. Actual performance is 10,650,100,000, or 20.5 per cent.

Right to education[13]

99. Priority is given to creating material conditions and training the human capital needed to ensure quality education for all, with free universal coverage at all levels of education, irrespective of gender, skin colour, household income, religion and political opinions or ideas of the students or their families.

100. According to the 2015 Global Monitoring Report — Education for All prepared by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Cuba is the only country in Latin America and the Caribbean that has achieved all the global objectives of Education For All 2000–2015, a goal that has only been met by one third of all countries in the world. The report recognizes Cuba as a country with a high level of educational development and ranks it twenty-eighth in the Education for All Development Index. Cuba is also recognized as one of the countries with the highest gender equity in the education sector. The literacy rate among children and adults aged 10 to 49 is 99.8 per cent[14]

101. The net enrolment rate at the primary level is 99.0, and the gross rate is 104.8. The net enrolment rate in basic secondary education is 90.0, and the gross rate is 97.5. In secondary education, the net and gross rates are 83.3 and 97.6, in that order.

102. The results in special education confirm the effectiveness of Cuba's efforts to achieve equal opportunities for all children and adolescents and show that differences in physical, intellectual and sensory development do not hinder their social integration. There are 365 special education schools with an enrolment of 37,025 children and adolescents.

103. Human rights education has been strengthened with the inclusion of relevant content in the curricula at different levels, bearing in mind the students' cognitive development and maturity. Linkages with issues such as gender equality, children's rights, sexuality and sustainable development have been strengthened.[15]

Right to culture

104. All branches of the arts and sciences are promoted, and freedom of artistic and literary creation are encouraged. Full access for the people to art and literature is guaranteed, and many steps have been taken to preserve and defend the nation's culture and enrich its core values.

105. Cuba's policy on culture is to encourage the people to be involved in different aspects of cultural life. The focus is on safeguarding cultural rights and promoting the implementation of projects aimed at defending identity, ensuring the preservation of heritage, and enhancing artistic, literary and creative production in every area.

106. The large network of cultural institutions includes cultural centres, bookstores, museums and libraries. Full access to art education is guaranteed at the elementary, middle and higher levels, and specialized programmes are available for different sectors of the population and groups that are bearers of traditional folk culture. Exhibitions, festivals, international colloquiums and participatory workshops in various art forms are promoted. Similarly, projects are being implemented that contribute to wholesome, safe, comprehensive and tasteful recreation for children and adolescents, as well as for the

general public. To achieve these goals, the State trains thousands of art instructors who work in schools in the general education system and in communities.

107. The aim is to bring cultural services to the people and encourage them to participate. More than 2,500 professionals promote culture and carry out cultural outreach activities in the People's Councils and towns; there are currently 360 socio-cultural projects.

108. The preservation of the nation's cultural heritage is a central concern of the State. Policies and programmes are underway to protect the cultural, material, intangible and natural heritage. In 2016, son and rumba music, along with the traditions of *repentismo* (improvised oral poetry) and *lecturas de tabaquería* (readings in cigar factories) were declared part of the national heritage. Five hundred four monuments have been declared national and local monuments and protected areas.

109. There is a wide network of museums (more than 318 throughout the country) which safeguard a valuable documentary heritage.

The right to work and social security

110. In 2016, there were 4,591,100 employed persons; the unemployment rate was 2 per cent. During the same year, most jobs (71.05 per cent) were mainly in the public sector, although non-State jobs increased to 28.95 per cent.

111. The changes that have taken place in the country's economic environment in the context of efforts to modernize the development model are aimed at improving the socialist system and making it sustainable under current conditions. This is not what is commonly referred to in other countries as "shock therapy". Consequently, no workers have been abandoned to their fate.

112. In job reassignment processes, the workers concerned are protected through job offers, job reassignment, wage guarantees and social assistance where appropriate.

113. Policies have been adopted to encourage the expansion of job opportunities for young people, contribute to their job stability and offer training opportunities.[16]

114. In 2015, the Social Security budget amounted to 5,635 billion pesos, and benefits were provided to 1,675,225 people. The average retirement pension was increased.

115. Policies are aimed at enhancing equity and promoting equal opportunities and protection for those most in need. These include providing subsidies to families who do not have the means to contribute towards solving the housing deficit, helping them build, renovate and maintain their dwellings, implementing a policy on bank loans and lowering prices for more than 122 items of construction materials.

Right to food

116. The authorities have continued to give priority to ensuring the right to food and food security for the population. Policies are being implemented to guarantee the availability of, access to and proper use of food.

117. The Government has continued to guarantee the availability of basic foodstuffs at subsidized prices for the entire population, regardless of individual and family income.

118. The Comprehensive Plan for the Prevention and Control of Iron-deficiency Anaemia in children and pregnant women is ongoing; it has helped to keep the incidence of this nutritional disorder very low. There is also a subsidized nutrition service for older persons, persons with disabilities and other at-risk individuals. Projects are being implemented with the support of UNICEF and WFP which contribute to reducing nutritional problems among children who are most at risk and pregnant women.

119. Adjustments have been made to improve the performance of the agriculture sector, achieve higher levels of local production, replace food imports, increase resilience in environmental situations, preserve ecological balance and create stronger linkages between the agriculture sector and the rest of the economy.

120. Pursuant to Decree-Law No. 300, on transfer of land held in usufruct, by May 2015, over 1.7 million hectares designated for food production had been granted to more than 200,000 people.

Right to adequate housing

121. In recent years, the measures taken to streamline procedures for transferring home ownership, for increasing loan amounts, facilitating credit and improving subsidies to enable individuals to undertake construction appear to have had a positive outcome.

122. Since the entry into force of Decision No. 7387 of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers, on regulations for granting subsidies to individuals to undertake construction on their homes, more than 63,000 subsidies have been approved,[17] and more than one billion pesos have been granted to beneficiaries; around 200,000 loans totalling 800 million pesos have been granted for this purpose; more than 57,000 homes have been sold, and more than 157,000 houses have been donated.

123. Annual sales of construction materials have increased by over 2.3 billion pesos. The State has handed over 10,000 homes per year at subsidized prices.

124. Between December 2016 and April 2017, several regulations were enacted to allow for the transfer of State housing currently under construction to be completed by self-help. The idea is to transfer the 16,887 dwellings involved, to legalize 20,021 dwellings and to recognize the right in perpetuity of areas affected by weather events, as well as to transfer ownership of dwellings allocated by the State or basic units built with subsidies.[18]

Promoting international cooperation and solidarity

125. Cuba cooperates closely with many countries in the region and around the world. Projects are underway to promote and protect economic and social rights, especially the right to health and education. Cuba also provides technical cooperation in a number of different areas; this cooperation has benefited the most disadvantaged groups, including indigenous peoples, women and persons with disabilities in many developing countries.

126. Since the beginning of the Cuban revolution and its collaborative efforts, more than a million Cubans have offered their services in 186 countries.

127. Cooperation in the health sector has been especially significant, given its humanitarian nature and the large-scale training of human resources promoted by the Revolution. The following data illustrate the magnitude of Cuba's cooperation in this area: more than 500 million patients were treated in medical centres; over 6.5 million lives were saved; over 2.9 million deliveries were attended; more than 10 million surgeries were performed.

128. Cuban specialists have saved or improved the vision of 2,780,467 persons in several countries in the Operation Miracle programme under which free eye surgery has been provided to 3.4 million people in 34 countries.

129. Cuba worked with other countries and the World Health Organization (WHO) to combat the Ebola virus in Western Africa. Over 250 health workers of the Henry Reeve Medical Brigade[19] provided their services in the most seriously affected regions.[20] WHO awarded the Dr. Lee Jong-wook Memorial Prize for Public Health to the Brigade in recognition of their work in disaster situations and major epidemics.

130. Cuba participated, in coordination with WHO, in the implementation of a prevention programme in African countries not affected by the Ebola epidemic, as well as in Latin America and the Caribbean.

131. Approximately 49,000 Cuban health workers are active in 63 countries. Many of them have cooperated in two, three and more missions.

132. Cuba cooperates at different levels in the field of education. Since 2004, it has extended its cooperation to literacy and post-literacy programmes through the *Yo, sí puedo* (Yes, I can) and *Yo, sí puedo seguir* (Yes, I can go further). The *Yo, sí puedo* programme, which has received the UNESCO King Sejong Literacy Prize, has helped 9,530,248 people

in more than 30 countries to graduate and has provided post-literacy programmes for 1,346,082 people.

133. As of the 2015–2016 school year, 73,548 foreign students had graduated in Cuba. Of these, 18,798 had completed upper secondary and mid-level technical education; 53,714 had completed the tertiary level, including 34,205 in the medical sciences. Latin America, the Caribbean and sub-Saharan Africa accounted for 87.3 per cent of the foreign graduates.

134. More than 1,740 Cuban education professionals provide their services in 17 countries of Latin America, the Caribbean and Africa. These professionals support programmes such as comprehensive care in early childhood (Educate Your Child programme), assistance with problems in teaching and learning in the sciences (mathematics, physics, chemistry) in secondary education, technical and vocational education, adult education and special education.

135. The experience gained by Cuba in dealing with disasters, particularly in cases of extreme water-related weather events and epidemics, has been made available to the region and the international community.

IV. Cuba's cooperation with the United Nations human rights machinery

136. Cuba has a long history of cooperation with all human rights mechanisms, which are applied on a universal and non-discriminatory basis.

137. The country has continued to fulfil its international commitments and obligations under international human rights treaties. As noted above, Cuba is a State party to 44 such instruments.[21]

138. Cuba has established a positive dialogue with the bodies created under international human rights treaties. It has made a serious effort to honour its commitments with regard to the preparation and submission of reports to treaty bodies.

139. Since the previous UPR, Cuba has defended its reports before the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on Enforced Disappearances. It has submitted, and is preparing to defend its periodic reports to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. It is currently working on preparation of other periodic reports.

140. The Cuban Government remains strongly committed to continue inviting special procedures mandate holders of the Human Rights Council established on a non-discriminatory basis to visit the country.

141. To demonstrate its commitment, in 2017, Cuba received visits from the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, with a focus on the human rights aspects of the victims of trafficking in persons, and the Independent Expert on human rights and international solidarity.

142. The country also cooperates with a number of humanitarian and human rights organizations around the world, both nationally and internationally, and carries out international cooperation missions. Hundreds of representatives of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, including senior managers of the United Nations, visit Cuba every year.

143. The traditional and positive cooperation between Cuba and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has intensified. Exchanges of experiences and bilateral constructive discussions on topics of mutual interest in the humanitarian field have increased, and programmes and cooperative activities in a number of areas, including international humanitarian law, are being implemented. In 2015, following an invitation from the Government of Cuba, the President of ICRC came on a working visit. Two international meetings on international humanitarian law were held in Havana, in 2015 and

2017, in coordination with the ICRC regional delegation for Mexico, Central America and Cuba.

144. Cuban representatives have continued to actively support the work of the Human Rights Council and the Third Committee of the General Assembly in the effective promotion of all rights, and have consistently opposed attempts to manipulate those bodies.

145. Cuba has continued to make voluntary contributions to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, most recently in 2017.

146. Cuba has systematically provided all information requested by the special procedures of the Human Rights Council. It has always responded to questionnaires and other requests for information from mandate-holders.

147. In line with the commitment to inform the general public about the content of its report to the UPR and the outcome of the review, Cuba carried out a number of communication activities. The UPR report was published on the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In addition, civil society organizations, such as the United Nations Cuban Association, also published the report and disseminated the outcome of the review.

148. Seminars, meetings and workshops with representatives of civil society organizations were organized to disseminate the outcome of the UPR and the process of implementing the recommendations accepted, as well as Cuba's cooperation with human rights treaty bodies and other human rights mechanisms of the United Nations.

149. An online forum on human rights in Cuba was conducted at which the recommendations received during the UPR were discussed, as well as other recommendations made by human rights treaty bodies. Representatives of the Government and of civil society organizations participated actively in the forum.

150. Activities were carried out to disseminate information on the international human rights instruments to which Cuba is a party and the actions the country has taken to implement them.

V. Priorities and obstacles

151. Cuba's priorities in the area of human rights are:

(a) To promote consolidation of the Cuban economic and social model of socialist development and successfully implement the national economic and social development plan up to 2030;

(b) To continue strengthening the legal and institutional framework for the promotion and protection of human rights and to continue expanding social justice;

(c) To continue promoting and protecting all human rights for all;

(d) To continue improving the Cuban political system, upholding the values of Cuban society and national unity, and to promote the strengthening of its democracy;

(e) To further strengthen the people's participation in electoral processes and decision-making;

(f) To continue expanding access to information and culture for everyone;

(g) To continue calling for an end to the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States Government against Cuba, censured almost unanimously by States members of the United Nations. The embargo violates the human rights of all the Cuban people and is qualified as an act of genocide under the 1948 Geneva Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide;

(h) To continue contributing to the strengthening of the human rights system of the United Nations in accordance with the principles of objectivity, impartiality and non-selectivity;

(i) To continue international cooperation with the human rights machinery of the United Nations and offer its modest solidarity and aid to other countries.

152. The problems and obstacles that prevent greater promotion and protection of human rights in Cuba are:

(a) The continuation of the embargo policy of successive United States Governments;

(b) The existence of the United States Naval Base in Guantánamo, a portion of the national territory occupied against the will of the Cuban people, which operates an illegal detention centre in which human rights are violated;

(c) The political and media campaigns against Cuba, which distort or spread lies about the country's situation in order to impose negative opinions about democracy and the enjoyment of the human rights of Cubans;

(d) The recruitment, funding and use by the United States of agents for subversion and destruction of Cuba's constitutional order, in clear violation of the Cuban people's right to self-determination.

VI. Conclusions

153. Despite the conditions of underdevelopment inherited from a colonial and neocolonial past, the United States embargo against its people, the unfair and unequal international economic order in which it has been forced to participate and the destructive impact of hurricanes and other natural phenomena, the Cuban people have managed to make substantial progress, and they have continued to intensify their revolutionary transformation with the goal of building a society that is increasingly just, free, democratic, caring, participatory and prosperous.

154. The laws, institutions and functions of the Cuban State are based on the exercise of power by the great majority of workers, intellectuals, professionals and artists. There is a broad and active civil society. Cubans participate effectively and systematically in decision-making processes, not only in the political and electoral context, but also in the economic, social and cultural spheres.

155. The policy of hostility and blockade of successive United States Governments against Cuba has been a serious obstacle to the full enjoyment of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of Cubans, including their right to life, peace, self-determination and development.

156. Cuba cooperates with the non-discriminatory and universally applicable procedures and mechanisms of the United Nations machinery in the field of human rights. It confirms its willingness to continue moving ahead with international cooperation and a genuine dialogue on human rights.

157. The Cuban people will continue to vindicate and defend the Revolution that has made possible the enjoyment by everyone in the country of their civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights. Cuba will work to make it ever more efficient, productive and sustainable. It will continue to ensure with dignity, modesty and pride the right of its people to self-determination, development and peace, and it will work for the establishment of a just, democratic and equitable international order.

Notes

[1] Ambos documentos reflejan la prioridad y atención que el Gobierno y el Estado Cubanos conceden a los derechos humanos. El documento Conceptualización del Modelo Económico y Social Cubano de Desarrollo Socialista, establece como uno de los principios de nuestro socialismo la garantía del "ejercicio y la protección de los derechos y deberes económicos, sociales, culturales y cívico-políticos, individuales y colectivos, conforme con la Constitución de la República y las leyes". El documento Bases del Plan Nacional de Desarrollo Económico y Social hasta el 2030: Visión de la

Nación, Ejes y Sectores Estratégicos, aborda significativamente cuestiones de derechos humanos en sus ejes estratégicos referidos al Gobierno Socialista y el Desarrollo humano.

[2] También beneficia a las sancionadas a privación de libertad o sus sanciones subsidiarias o sujetas a medida de seguridad que trabajan y que percibieron una remuneración económica en el término establecido para el cómputo de la prestación.

[3] La Fiscalía General de la República (FGR) se organiza de manera vertical en todo el territorio nacional, siendo independiente de todo órgano local. Su labor en la protección de los derechos ciudadanos tiene su fundamento legal en el artículo 63 de la Constitución, que confiere la posibilidad de dirigir quejas y peticiones a las autoridades y recibir la atención o respuesta pertinente en un plazo adecuado. La FGR presta atención a través de la comparecencia personal, la línea única, el correo postal o la entrega de escritos, el correo electrónico y el portal web. El servicio de la línea única se brinda a través del teléfono 0802 12345 durante las 24 horas los 7 días de la semana.

[4] Existe en el país un extenso sistema asociativo juvenil, que incluye a estudiantes de la educación secundaria y universitarios, y a trabajadores de los diferentes sectores de la gestión económica estatal y no estatal, al que los jóvenes se afilian voluntariamente y en el que desempeñan un rol decisivo en la construcción de políticas sociales que les son inherentes y otras de trascendencia en el desarrollo de la nación. 65 38.

[5] Encabeza la región de América Latina y el Caribe en este Índice que mide los adelantos del Programa de Acción Mundial en Juventud y que está conformado por cinco variables que tipifican la educación, la salud y el bienestar, la participación cívica, la participación política y el empleo de las poblaciones jóvenes.

[6] Desde diciembre de 2014 funciona una Red Nacional de Investigadores sobre Juventud que integran en la actualidad 272 académicos y profesionales del trabajo con niños, niñas y jóvenes. Dicha red ha logrado sistematizar el estudio de cuestiones relacionadas con estos grupos de población y llegar a resultados relevantes para la construcción de plataformas de acción.

[7] La población cubana alcanza 11 millones 239 mil 224 habitantes. La pirámide poblacional mantiene un acelerado ritmo de envejecimiento. Las personas de 60 años y más representan el 19,8% de la población.

[8] En el marco del proceso de actualización del modelo cubano de desarrollo económico y social, se creó una Comisión Gubernamental para atender y dar seguimiento a la implementación del Lineamiento No. 116 de la Política Económica y Social del Partido y la Revolución, que expresa: "Garantizar la implantación gradual de la política para atender los elevados niveles de envejecimiento de la población…"

[9] Estos Círculos son una modalidad de atención y socialización de los adultos mayores en la comunidad.

[10] Las casas del Abuelo son instituciones sociales que brindan atención integral diurna a los ancianos carentes de amparo filial en absoluto o de familiares que no pueden atenderlos durante el día. En estos centros se les proporciona alimentación, asistencia médica y otros servicios de atención que satisfacen las necesidades de estos adultos mayores y la demanda de familiares interesados en acceder a un servicio de atención a tiempo parcial.

[11] En Cuba nadie queda desamparado. El Estado Cubano garantiza, en todo el país, el traslado entre los lugares de residencia y las unidades de salud correspondientes de todos los pacientes de hemodiálisis para su tratamiento sistemático. Similar garantía existe para el traslado de niños con trastornos y problemas serios de movilidad, lo que les permite asistir a escuelas especiales dispuestas en el país para menores de edad con dichas afectaciones. Similar garantía existe para el traslado de niños con trastornos y problemas serios de movilidad, lo que les permite asistir a escuelas especiales dispuestas en el país para menores de edad con dichas afectaciones. Similar garantía existe para el traslado de niños con trastornos y problemas serios de movilidad, lo que les permite asistir a escuelas especiales dispuestas en el país para menores de edad con dichas afectaciones. Asimismo, se garantiza el traslado a medianas y largas distancias de otras personas que requieren viajar desde su vivienda o centros de salud situados en lugares lejanos o apartados de las ciudades, hacia hospitales especializados situados en las capitales provinciales y La Habana.

[12] 29 enfermedades transmisibles y formas clínicas están bajo control, 18 de ellas mediante vacunas.

[13] Frente a los problemas económicos que afronta el país, agravados por el bloqueo impuesto por Estados Unidos a Cuba y los huracanes que nos han azotado en los años recientes, el esfuerzo mancomunado entre diferentes sectores ha permitido que las actividades docentes, investigativas, deportivas y culturales se realicen adecuadamente. Los programas de cooperación internacional y de intercambio permiten continuar desarrollando con calidad la formación de especialistas de alto nivel. Se ha logrado mantener la realización de dos importantes congresos en la región de América Latina y el Caribe en la esfera educacional: el Congreso "Pedagogía" y el Congreso "Universidad". Ambos favorecen que especialistas de alto nivel en el área de la educación intercambien experiencias y buenas prácticas.

[14] Los jóvenes cubanos poseen un alto nivel de instrucción, avalado por los estudios comparados

regionales que reportan que el 87,2% de la población joven cubana ostenta niveles educativos alcanzados de enseñanza media superior y superior.

[15] Especialistas cubanos, incluyendo del sector de la sociedad civil, han participado en foros, eventos y cursos internacionales sobre derechos humanos, como por ejemplo en la Academia de Derechos Humanos de Venecia 2017.

[16] 1 millon 551 mil 812 jóvenes integran la Población Económicamente Activa, lo que representa el 52,5% de la población joven total. El 95,2% de ellos está ocupado, la mayoría de ellos, al igual que en la población total, en formas estatales de gestión laboral.

[17] El Consejo de Ministros dictó el Acuerdo No. 8093, de 23/2/2017 que aprueba el nuevo "Reglamento para el otorgamiento de subsidios a personas naturales interesadas en efectuar acciones constructivas a su vivienda". Se emitieron la Resolución No. 61 del Ministro de la Construcción que establece el "PROCEDIMIENTO PARA LA ACTUACIÓN DE LAS DIRECCIONES MUNICIPALES DE LA VIVIENDA EN EL OTORGAMIENTO DE SUBSIDIOS A LAS PERSONAS NATURALES, CON DESTINO A ACCIONES CONSTRUCTIVAS EN SU VIVIENDA", de fecha 24 de marzo de 2017 y la No. 114/17 de la Ministra de Finanzas y Precios, igualmente vinculada al tema pues establece el "PROCEDIMIENTO PARA EL FINANCIAMIENTO DE LOS SUBSIDIOS A PERSONAS NATURALES INTERESADAS EN REALIZAR ACCIONES CONSTRUCTIVAS EN SU VIVIENDA".

[18] Decreto Ley No. 342 de fecha 14 de diciembre de 2016 modificativo de la Ley General de la Vivienda; Acuerdo No. 8089/17 del Consejo de Ministros sobre La autorización de la entrega de 16 887 viviendas estatales en ejecución, a personas naturales que acepten su terminación por esfuerzo propio; Acuerdo 8093 del Consejo de Ministros, que derogó el Acuerdo No. 7387 del Comité Ejecutivo del Consejo de Ministros "Reglamento para el otorgamiento de subsidios a personas naturales para realizar acciones constructivas en su vivienda" y aprobó el nuevo Reglamento; Acuerdo 8093 del Consejo de Ministros, que derogó el Acuerdo No. 7387 del Comité Ejecutivo del Consejo de Ministros "Reglamento para el otorgamiento de subsidios a personas naturales para realizar acciones constructivas en su vivienda" y aprobó el nuevo Reglamento; Resolución No. 59/17 "Procedimiento para la legalización de las viviendas a los afectados por eventos climatológicos";

[19] El Contingente Internacional de Médicos Especializados en el Enfrentamiento a Desastres y Grandes Epidemias "Henry Reeve", fue constituido el 19 de septiembre de 2005, cuando el devastador huracán Katrina ocasionó importantes daños en el Caribe y en el sur de los Estados Unidos de América. Desde entonces hasta la fecha, ha realizado misiones de ayuda sanitaria y humanitaria en situaciones de emergencia en 20 países, con un total de 24 brigadas médicas, en las que han participado 7 mil 491 profesionales de la salud cubanos, que han atendido a más de 3,5 millones de personas y salvado la vida de unos 80 mil pacientes.

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[21] Cuba es parte de los siguientes instrumentos internacionales en materia de derechos humanos: Convención internacional sobre la eliminación de todas las formas de discriminación racial; Convención internacional sobre la represión y el castigo del crimen de apartheid; Convenio 100 OIT relativo a la igualdad de remuneración entre la mano de obra masculina y la mano de obra femenina por un trabajo de igual valor; Convención relativa a la Lucha contra las Discriminaciones en la Esfera de la Enseñanza 1960; Convención relativa a la Lucha contra las Discriminaciones en la Esfera de la Enseñanza 1960; Convenio 111 OIT relativo a la discriminación en materia de empleo y ocupación; Convenio 111 OIT relativo a la discriminación en materia de empleo y ocupación; Convención para la prevención y sanción del delito de genocidio; Convención sobre la imprescriptibilidad de los crímenes de guerra y de los crímenes de lesa humanidad; Convenio Internacional para la supresión de los atentados terroristas cometidos con bombas; Convenio Internacional para la supresión de los atentados terroristas cometidos con bombas; Convenio Internacional para la supresión de los atentados terroristas cometidos con bombas; Convenio Internacional para la supresión de los atentados terroristas cometidos con bombas; Convenio Internacional para la supresión de los atentados terroristas cometidos con bombas; Protocolo para modificar la Convención sobre la Esclavitud; Protocolo para modificar la Convención sobre la Esclavitud; Convenio para la represión de la trata de personas y de la explotación de la prostitución ajena; Convenio 29 OIT relativo al trabajo forzoso u obligatorio; Convenio OIT No.105 relativo a la abolición de trabajo forzoso; Convención sobre el derecho internacional de la corrección; Convención sobre la protección y la promoción de la diversidad de las expresiones culturales; Convenio 11 OIT relativo a los derechos de asociación y de coalición de los trabajadores agrícolas; Convenio OIT No. 87 sobre la libertad sindical y la protección del derecho de sindicación; Convenio 98 OIT relativo a la aplicación de los principios del derecho de sindicación y de negociación colectiva; Convenio 122 OIT relativo a la política del empleo; Convenio 135 OIT relativo a la protección y facilidades que deben otorgarse a los

representantes de los trabajadores en la empresa; Convenio 141 OIT sobre las organizaciones de trabajadores rurales y su función en el desarrollo económico y social; Convenio 151 OIT sobre la protección del derecho de sindicación y los procedimientos para determinar las condiciones de empleo en la administración pública; Convención sobre los derechos políticos de la mujer; Convención sobre la Nacionalidad de la Mujer Casada; Convención sobre el consentimiento para el matrimonio, la edad mínima para contraer matrimonio y el registro de los matrimonios; Convención para la eliminación de todas las formas de discriminación contra la mujer; Convención sobre los Derechos del niño; Protocolo Facultativo de la Convención del Niño relativo a la participación de niños en los conflictos armados; Protocolo Facultativo de la Convención sobre los Derechos del Niño relativo a la Venta de Niños, la Prostitución y la Pornografía Infantil; Convenio 138 OIT sobre la edad mínima; Convenio 182 OIT sobre las peores formas de trabajo infantil; Convención sobre los Derechos de las Personas con Discapacidad; Convenio de Ginebra para aliviar la suerte que corren los heridos y los enfermos de las fuerzas armadas en campaña (Convenio I); Convenio de Ginebra para aliviar la suerte que corren los heridos, los enfermos y los náufragos de las fuerzas armadas en el mar (Convenio II); Convenio de Ginebra relativo al trato debido a los prisioneros de guerra (Convenio III); Convenio de Ginebra relativo a la protección de personas civiles en tiempos de guerra (Convenio IV); Protocolo Adicional sobre la protección de las víctimas de conflictos armados internacionales (Protocolo I); Protocolo Adicional sobre la protección de las víctimas de conflictos armados no internacionales (Protocolo II).